

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GEORGE 02472 071753Z

67

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 SY-05 JUSE-00 MCT-01

AGRE-00 /089 W

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R 071715Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3822

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBSSY PARAMARIBO

AMEMBSSY PORT OF SPAIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 2472

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, GY

SUBJECT: FRAUD ALLEGATIONS IN GDF/INTERNAL SECURITY

1. DURING DEBATE ON DEFENSE EXPENDITURES, THE PPP ASKED PRIME MINISTER TO COMMENT ON REPORTS THAT THERE HAS BEEN A G\$200,000 FRAUD COMMITTED WITHIN THE GDF. THE "MIRROR" ALLEGED THAT, DUE TO THIS ALLEGATION, GDF PERSONNEL HAVE NOT BEEN PAID THEIR SALARIES FOR NOVEMBER. THE "CITIZEN" OF DECEMBER 6 REPORTED THAT THE COMMANDER OF THE GDF COL. ULRIC PILGRIM HAS DENIED ALLEGATIONS OF FRAUD. HOWEVER, HE ADMITTED THAT THE POLICE ARE CURRENTLY INVESTIGATING CERTAIN MATTERS AND THAT IT WOULD BE QUOTE PREMATURE TO SAY THERE IS FRAUD UNQUOTE. THE ARTICLE STATED THAT HUNDREDS OF SOLDIERS RECEIVED THEIR NOVEMBER SALARIES LATE.

2. EMBOFFS HAVE BEEN HEARING OF ALLEGATIONS OF FRAUD THAT CAUSED DELAY IN GDF PAY FOR NOVEMBER. ONE SOURCE WHO CLAIMS TO KNOW GDF INVESTIGATING OFFICER STATED A NUMBER OF PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO THE GDF
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PAGE 02 GEORGE 02472 071753Z

PAYMASTER SECTION HAVE BEEN ARRESTED IN CONNECTION

WITH THE INVESTIGATION. WE HAVE NO ACCURATE READING ABOUT STATE OF GDF MORALE CAUSED BY DELAYED RECEIPT OF PAY BUT ALONG WITH THE FINANCIAL SHORTS, WE UNDERSTAND EARLY IN NOVEMBER THE GDF SUFFERED FROM FOOD SHORTAGES SO THAT TROOPS WERE ONLY FED ON RICE. THIS SUPPOSEDLY OCCURRED WHEN GDF AGRICULTURAL CORPS SOLD THEIR PRODUCTION FOR CASH TO ENABLE PAYMASTER TO EVENTUALLY PAY TROOPS.

3. ALONG WITH CLAIMS OF DESTABILIZATION AND SABOTAGE IN RECENT SPEECHES BY SENIOR GOG OFFICIALS, WE NOW NOTE THAT THE GOVERNMENT UNQUESTIONABLY CONSIDERS THE PROBLEM OF INTERNAL SABOTAGE VERY REAL. GDF GUARDS ARE NOW STATIONED AT KEY GOVERNMENT INSTALLATIONS IN GREATER GEORGETOWN, INCLUDING THE RICE BOARD, ELECTRICITY CORP., WATER WORKS AND POL STORAGE FACILITIES.
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